

## Elham Valley Group Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026

"Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all"

Find us online : [www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) OR  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

### This week's services : 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**8.30am – Morning Prayer – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling**

**9.30am – Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin, Elham**

**9.30am – Morning Prayer – St Martin, Acrise**

**10am – Eucharist - St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge**

**11.15am - New Day – St Mary Magdalene, Denton**

**4pm – Holy Communion – St Oswald, Paddlesworth**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 9am - Benefice Prayer Meeting - Lyminge**

#### **The Collect:**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-19**

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly;

<sup>16</sup> For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. <sup>17</sup> For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. <sup>18</sup> Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. <sup>19</sup> Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

#### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**

<sup>24</sup> He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?"

Where, then, did these weeds come from?" <sup>28</sup> He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" <sup>29</sup> But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' <sup>37</sup> He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Please Pray for *Rev Carol, Mark, Andy Ashman, Val Pinder, Roger Goody, Jenni Lister, The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Sue Leaver, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, Michael Kirk, Alice Mills, Lilian Bowles & family, Claire Laker.*

***Please contact the Benefice Administrator Alison Dale 07985025381 or [beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](mailto:beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) to add people to the prayers.***

Please pray for the departed, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Florence Sharp, William Cutlack, Charles Barker, Danny Norton & Alan Boughton.*

To arrange for Funerals, Thanksgivings, Blessings, Renewal of Vows and *all other services* please contact the Rector – [revcarolbates@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolbates@gmail.com) 0777 239 4855

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the Benefice Administrator as above.

### **Parish Notices:**

***Weddings*** – Emily Bone-Knell & Fergus Dougal – Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> July 2pm – Stanford

***Baptisms*** – Alexander & Elizabeth Farrall – Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> July 4.30pm - Stanford

***Coffee Morning*** Sat.16<sup>th</sup> July 1030-1200. All Saints, Stanford. All proceeds to DEC for disaster relief.

***Acrise Festival*** – Sat.1<sup>st</sup> August 10am – 5pm – Acrise Church Green

### **Benefice Notices:**

**20<sup>th</sup> July** – Lyminge School Leavers' service 11am

**21<sup>st</sup> July** – Elham School Leavers' service 2pm